



Media Contact:
Tracy Shirer (tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org)
O: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373
Connecticut Science Center | 250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Achieves New Milestone 1.5 Million People Inspired Since 2009 Grand Opening

Hartford, CT, January 7, 2014 – In just four and a half short years, the Connecticut Science Center has become a premier learning destination and family attraction. After a remarkable finish to 2013 with blockbuster holiday season attendance, new programs and exhibits, the Connecticut Science Center opened the new year by welcoming its 1,500,000th person served.

“This is a wonderful time to celebrate and also look ahead as we start the new year and approach our fifth anniversary in 2014,” said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. “We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has enjoyed the Science Center and its offerings, and also thank those individuals and organizations whose vision and commitment helped make the dream of a state-of-the-art science center in Connecticut a reality and carry our mission forward.”

In 2013, the Science Center enjoyed its strongest year in terms of individuals served since opening in 2009 with more than 325,000 people served, ranging from families and school groups visiting the Science Center in Hartford to the Science Center’s outreach programs throughout the state and Professional Development programs for educators.

The launch of the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers** in July was one of the contributing factors to the Science Center’s growth as a Connecticut educational resource. The Mandell Academy ramped up the Science Center’s capacity to serve more educators, offering Professional Development programs and workshops on such subjects as Student Engagement Strategies, Science Content, Engineering, Inquiry Teaching and Learning, and Science Coaching. Approximately 550 educators across the state participated in Mandell Academy programs in 2013.

Additionally, the Science Center hosted three exciting traveling exhibits in its Saint Francis Care Traveling Exhibit Gallery in 2013, which included *Identity: An Exhibition of You*, *MathAlive!* and *Bodies Revealed*. These offerings attracted strong and steady visitation throughout the year and were well received by Science Center Members as well as in-state and out-of-state visitors, schools, and other groups.

The Connecticut Science Center recently announced the extension of the popular *Bodies Revealed* exhibit, presented by Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, to January 14, 2014. A thrilling schedule of new traveling exhibits will follow:

- *Lost Egypt: Ancient Secrets, Modern Science*, presented by United Technologies (Feb. 2 – May 4)
- *Mindbender Mansion*, presented by Travelers, and *Mr. Potato Head* (May 24 – August 31)
- *Grossology* (opening October 4)

“There is a tremendous amount of momentum and excitement as we start the new year,” said Fleury. “We look forward to serving the hundreds of thousands of visitors who will come through our doors in 2014 and continuing our mission to promote STEM education, providing fun and inspirational experiences to all.”

For more information about the Connecticut Science Center, including hours and pricing, please visit www.CTScienceCenter.org.

About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Inspiring 1.5 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.